Trypanosomiasis among Tigers and Lions

*280. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the parasitic disease, Trypanosomiasis, among tigers and lions in various Zoological parks/wild life sanctuaries across the country;

(b) if so, the number of tigers/lions died due to this disease during the last two years, year-wise and sanctuary-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check the spread of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are no reports of Trypanosomiasis amongst tigers and lions in Wild life Sanctuaries in the country. However, cases of Trypanosomiasis infections have been reported in Zoos from time to time.

(b) During last two calendar years (2002 and 2003) and thereafter, only one tiger had died due to this disease on 14.06.2002 at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park,Chennai. Nine tigers had been rescued from Great Rayman Circus on 14.03.2002 which were housed in the rescue and rehabilitation centre, of which three tigers were affected by this disease. Out of these three animals, two were cured and the third one died.

(c) The Zoos, keeping lions and tigers in their collection, have been directed to carry out periodic screening against blood borne parasitic diseases and take preventive and prophylactic measures.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Farmer Friendly Schemes

1027. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt some new farmer-friendly measures like introduction of comprehensive crop insurance scheme and prevention of sale of spurious seeds in the near future;